

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 NEAE-00 /059 W

----- 026557

O R 061255Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2087

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

AMCONUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USINCPAC

USIA WAHSDC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN

SUBJ: INDIAN PRESS REPORTS ON BANGLADESH

REF: NEW DELHI 14768

1. IN THE COURSE OF NOV 6, INDIAN CENSORSHIP PASSED A  
SERIES OF STRONG INDIAN WIRESERVICE ARTICLES ON  
BANGLADESH WHICH WE EXPECT WILL LEAD IN INDIAN PRESS  
NOV 7. THRUST OF ARTICLES IS SIGNIFICANTLY MORE EMOTIONAL  
AND PASSIONATE THAN MATERIALS APPEARING THUS FAR. UNI  
REPORT FROM DACCA STARTS OFF "MEN WEPT BITTERLY AND  
WOMEN SWOONED DURING A SILENT MARCH TO THE LATE PRESIDENT  
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SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN'S RESIDENCE ON NOV 4 IN WHAT WAS

THE FIRST PUBLIC SHOW OF MOURNING FOR THE SHEIKH SINCE HIS ASSASSINATION." THE PROCESSION HAD A "DOZEN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT INCLUDING MOHIUDDIN AHMED, A FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF THE AWAMI LEAGUE, STUDENT AND YOUTH LEADERS BELONGING TO THE DEFUNCT AWAMI LEAGUE." AND THE MOTHER OF THE NEW ARMY CHIEF MAJ GEN MUSHARRAF AND HIS BROTHER RASHED MUSHARRAF. A STUDENT LEADER DEMANDED PUNISHMENT OF THE ASSASSINS OF MUJIB AND THAT THE SHEIKH BE REDECLARED "FATHER OF THE NATION." IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE DACCA PRESS FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE AUGUST 15 COUP REFERRED TO THE SHEIKH AS "BANGABANDHU". AT THE SAME TIME, THE UNI DESPATCH NOTED THAT THE HARTAL CALL NOV 4 HAD RECEIVED ONLY A PARTIAL RESPONSE.

2. PTI NOV 6 REPORTS SHEIKH ABDUR RAHMAN, A MEMBER OF THE BANGLADESH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO THE RECENT COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE IN DELHI, AS SAYING THAT THOSE WHO KILLED THE LEADERS IN THE DACCA JAIL WERE THE PEOPLE "WHO WANTED TO DESTROY THE FREEDOM OF BANGLADESH." HE WONDERED WHY THE MURDERERS WERE SEEKING ASYLUM IN PAKISTAN OR THE US. HE SAID PAKISTAN HAD BEEN JUBILANT AT THE AUGUST COUP AND WERE UPSET NOW, AND THOUGHT THAT "THE COUP AND ITS EFFICIENT EXECUTION COULD NOT BE DONE BY SEVEN OR EIGHT YOUNG ARMY OFFICERS WITHOUT THE BACKING OF FOREIGN HANDS."

3. UNI, AGAIN FROM DACCA, DESCRIBES IN SOME DETAIL THE FUNERAL SERVICE BEFORE THE DACCA MOSQUE IN HOMAGE TO THE PERSONS KILLED IN THE JAIL. IT DESCRIBES THE "BULLET RIDDEN BODIES" OF NAZRUL ISLAM, TAJUDDIN AHMED, AND MANSOOR ALI AND NOTES THAT TAJUDDIN'S BODY "SHOWED HE HAD BLED PROFUSELY FROM HIS NOSE AND THAT MANSOOR ALI'S BODY SHOWED NUMEROUS BULLET MARKS OVER HIS CHEST AND BELLY."

4. COMMENT: OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE GOI HAS AT THE VERY LEAST AUTHORIZED AN ESCALATION IN RHETORIC ABOUT BANGLADESH EVENTS. OUR EFFORTS TO LOCATE RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS IN MEA DEALING WITH BANGLADESH HAVE ELICITED THE RESPONSE ALL DAY NOV 6 THAT THE JONT SECRETARY HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEEN IN A SERIES OF URGENT MEETINGS AND WAS NOT EXPECTED BACK IN HIS OFFICE ALL DAY. JUNIOR OFFICERS IN MEA WERE NONCOMMITTAL ON RECENT EVENTS. WIRESERVICE REPORTS ALSO STATE (AS WAS OBVIOUS FROM DACCA DATELINES) THAT WIRESERVICE SOMMUNICATION BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH HAS BEEN RESTORED.  
SAXBE

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## Message Attributes

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